Development of Tourism in Arunachal Pradesh

1341. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount spent by the Government for the development of tourist places in the Arunachal Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the details of amount allocated for the purpose during the Ninth Plan; and

(c) the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR); (a) to (c) Central financial assistance sanctioned/released during last three years to Arunachal Pradesh is as under:—

Year	Amount .Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
199(6-97	2.00
1997-98	271.00
1998-99	178.30

Development of tourism is mainly undertaken by the State/UT Governments. However, to strengthen their efforts Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to them for the projects/schemes prioritised every year in consultation with them. During 1999-200©, 43"projects have been prioritised for an amount of Rs. 886.50 lakhs.

New Tourism Policy

1342. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY; Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new Tourism Policy which is hanging fire for the last two years is likely to be finalised and presented in the Budget Session of Parliament;

(b) if so, the salient features of the new policy;

(c) whether the new policy envisage the active involvement of the Private Sector in this key area and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, and

(d) what specific measures are being contemplated to attract foreign tourists during the millennium celebrations which continue upto the sunrise of 2001 A.D.?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The revised draft National Tourism Policy which was formulated in 1997 is under consideration of the Govt.

(b) The salient features of the New Policy are as follows:—

(i) Providing information, facilitation and safety to tourists.

(ii) Creating awareness amongst all sections of society about the socio-economic benefits of tourism.

(iii) Providing a national focus for the development of tourism.

(iv) Diversification of tourism products and its development.

(v) Providing for peoples participation in the development of tourism and in sharing the benefits of tourism.

(vi) Facilitating the development of a dynamic private sector in tourism industry.

(vii) Ensuring easy international access to India, enhancing carrying capacity and improving the quality of services.

(viii) Facilitating domestic tourisms by promoting amenities and facilities for budget tourists.

(c) Yes Sir, The private sector has to consider investment in tourism from a long term perspective and create the required facilities including accommodation, time share, restaurants, entertainment facilities, shopping complexes, etc. in areas identified for tourism development.

(d) Various measures which are being taken to attract foreign tourists during the millennium celebration includes Khajoraho millennium celebration, Tricentenary celebrations of the founding of Khalsa Panth, discounts by Air India through Super Summer Saver Scheme', discounts offered by Heritage Hotels during 'EIMY', Introduction of A/C Taxis by Delhi Government in the capital, Millennium Trains, Millennium Golf and Polo Tournaments, Celebration of First Sunrise of the Millennium at Katchal Island in A&N Island, and installation of Touch Screen information Kiosks.

WTTC proposals for Tourism Promotion

1343. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state: